

Habitat Happenings



News and Events from **Runge Conservation Nature Center** • January/February 2016

A NEW BEGINNING

I love beginnings. They are promises of a better tomorrow and a stronger resolve. January is a new beginning at Runge and we are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead. Every year, in late summer or early fall, Runge staff spends three days reviewing our interpretive plan and considering changes for the following year. This year we decided to try some new things to improve your connections to nature.

The biggest change has to do with challenging ourselves to meet a more diverse group of visitors. We will be focusing on reaching a continuum of visitors by offering programs targeting developmental stages starting with babies and going through senior citizens. In addition, we will be adding more family-oriented events throughout the year.

The format of this newsletter reflects these changes. You will notice that programs are now listed based on audience rather than date. Audiences include **Little Ones** which cover 0-6 years of age. This is where you will find our *Babes in Woods*, *Little Acorns*, and other toddler programs. Another audience is **Kids for Conservation** which focuses on 7-12 year olds and is taking the place of *Conservation Kids Club* (CKC). Unlike *Conservation Kids Club* which met on the same evening each month, *Kids for Conservation* programs will meet at different times and will require reservations just like our other programs. This will allow us to do more hands-on programming and field trips. Programs

and field trips will have a limited number of spaces depending on the event offered. **Teens for Conservation** will focus on 13-17 year olds. **Adult** programs will be for anyone 18 years and older and our general audience programs will be for people of **All Ages**, including families. **Mixed Age Groups** will focus on a variety of age groups, but not all ages.

We are looking forward to a great beginning and a wonderful new year ahead. Our goal is to provide nature connection opportunities for people of all ages and we are excited to get started.

Here's to new beginnings!

—Kathy Cavender,
Manager

Volunteer News

Helping you connect with nature.



Kay Kasiske, center, was presented an award for volunteering 6000 hours at the nature center by Kathy Cavender, Manager, and Robin Grumm, Volunteer Coordinator.

All across the state, volunteers are helping to spread the good word about conservation to the citizens of Missouri. These people give freely of their time and their skills, helping the citizens of Missouri enjoy the fish, forests, and wildlife of our state. Runge is proud to have two volunteers that have contributed over 6000 hours of time to our program. Jim Smith reached this milestone in September 2014 and Kay Kasiske reached it in September 2015. Congratulations!

Milestones

Congratulations to the following volunteers for their hours of service:

100 hours –

Jessica Bell

200 hours –

Laura Richardson

300 hours –

Lana Wong

THANK YOU!

Look for your program under one of these headings –

Little Ones (0-6 years)

Kids for Conservation (7-12 years)

Teens for Conservation (13-17 years)

Adults (18+ years)

All Ages

Mixed Age Groups

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179, at 330 Commerce Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri. 573-526-5544

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102

BUILDING HOURS: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM

Closed Sunday & Monday

TRAIL HOURS: Open daily 6 AM–9 PM

<http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

Lobby Exhibit and West Wing

Missouri River Impressions



by Carlyle Raine

Carlyle Raine has B.A. degrees from the University of Missouri, Columbia and William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri. She is a member of the Kansas City Artists Coalition. Her paintings have appeared at solo, group, and juried exhibitions in the greater Kansas City area, Columbia, Chicago, and New York City.

Carlyle has an interest in historic trails both land and water. This interest was fueled by her great-grandfather, who led a survey of the Santa Fe Trail. The paintings on display this month are a series of Missouri River paintings.

Holiday Happenings – Stories of Nature

Spend a little time at Runge as a part of your holiday celebrations.

Stories of Nature

Animal Stories – December 29 Tuesday • 10 AM–3 PM

- **11 AM and 2 PM** Professional Storyteller – Larry Brown
- **Noon** Nature Walk
- **1:30 PM** Animal Feeding

Night Time Nature Stories – December 30 Wednesday • 10 AM–3 PM

- **10 AM** “Owl Moon” program
- **11 AM and 1 PM** Music - River Ridge String Band
- **1 PM** Puppet Show “Creatures of the Night”

Plant Stories – December 31 Thursday • 10 AM–3 PM

- **11 AM** Winter Weed Walk
- **2 PM** Winter Tree Walk

Crafts and refreshments daily.
No reservations required.

...and more

January Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins **Saturday, January 2nd**, for the January programs.

Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Little Ones



Good-Night Owl

Owl is trying to get rest. Why? Is it really good night for owl or is owl up for the night? Join us this month to learn about Missouri owls and how they use their senses to survive. Make an owl mask to take home.

Babes in the Woods

January 20 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM
Registration required (ages 0-2 years)

Little Acorns

January 26 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM
Registration required (ages 3-6 years)

Little Acorns PLUS

January 27 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM
Registration required. For this program, you need one child in the 0-2 age range and one child in the 3-6 age range.

Kids for Conservation

Skull Maze

January 14 • Thursday • 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 7-12 years)
Join us for a MAZE-ing skull discoveries. You will work through a 3-dimensional floor maze to identify several Missouri mammal skulls. Master the maze and you earn the level of skull expert. Limit 30 participants.

Adults

River Bluffs Audubon Society: Birds of Honduras

January 14 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM
No registration required (ages 18 and older)
The River Bluffs Audubon Society will be hosting Rick Thom, retired Missouri Department of Conservation biologist, who will speak on birding and ecotourism in Honduras.

The Hikers

January 16 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Lake of the Ozarks State Park** in Camden County and hike the Honey Run Trail. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Trail Length: 7 miles. Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots. Notes: Bring lunch.

Midweek Trekkers

January 20 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Bothwell Lodge State Historical Site** in Pettis County and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Trail Length: 3 miles. Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots. Notes: Bring lunch.

IT'S ALL THE RAGE!

Color Your Natural World

January 20 • Wednesday • 10:30–11:30 AM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
Spend some time with us as we reflect on nature through coloring. We'll explore a unique realm of frost flowers through coloring sheets and learn intriguing information about their formations. Coloring sheets and colorful pencils will be provided.

Nature's Needlers

January 21 • Thursday • 10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
The topic for 2016 is "The Seasons of Nature" highlighting the plants and animals that are notable in each month. Join us in constructing the first block, the bald eagle, and learn about the incredible come back it has made from near extinction.

Discover Nature Women: Flint Knapping

January 28 • Thursday • 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (Women, ages 18 and older)
Flint knapping is the process of chipping away material from high silica stones like "flint" in a carefully- controlled manner with special tools to produce sharp projectile points or tools. The native people of North America produced some of the finest flint projectiles and blades in the world. However, there were others who created these objects far beyond their utilitarian purpose. These incredible works of art are as rare as they are diverse in shape, color, purpose, workmanship, and beauty. This evening will be an opportunity to try your hand at this primitive skill. All materials will be provided.

January Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature is sharing with you.



Registration begins **Saturday, January 2nd**, for the January programs.

Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

All Ages

Puppet Show: Fungus Among Us Tree Dwellers

January 9 • Saturday • 1–1:30 PM

No registration required.

Many Missouri trees change by losing their leaves. When branches are empty it is easier to see what lives on and around them. Join Runge puppeteers for a close look at some things which call trees home. Maybe you can discover why Fungus is unhappy, and see if Bluebird or her friends can help her feel better.

A Sand County Almanac – An Exploration of Nature

January 13 • Wednesday • 1–3 PM

Registration required.

Join us for an exploration of the writings and life of Aldo Leopold. We will view a film entitled *Green Fire* about Aldo Leopold's life and discuss the first few chapters of his book, *A Sand County Almanac*. Time and weather permitting, we will step outdoors to talk about observations each of us can make throughout the seasons and discuss journaling those observations.

Aquarium and Snake Feeding

January 15 • Friday • 1:30 PM

No registration required.

The animals are hungry! Join us and watch as we feed the aquarium fish, snapping turtles, and snakes.

What's Going On?

Feathers, Fur, and Scales

January 16 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

Why do animals have fur, feathers, or scales? Learn about the importance of animal coverings and discover some of the differences between mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles. There will be activities, crafts, and a discovery table.

Eagle Adventure

January 23 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

Eagle activities and crafts will be offered in the lobby at the nature center. Staff from Dickerson Park Zoo will be offering live eagle presentations at 10 AM, 11 AM, and 1 PM. Stop by and participate. Then, pick up a map to a wild eagle viewing site. This location will be staffed and you will be able to view eagles (weather permitting). Bundle up and come on out.

What's Going On? Get Ready for Groundhog Day!

January 30 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

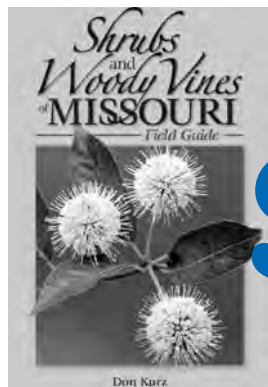
No registration required.

Groundhog Day is right around the corner. The perennial question, "Will he see his shadow?" awaits an answer. In the meantime, come to the nature center and discover why the groundhog is so venerated. Stories, discovery table, and crafts await you. Perhaps a walk on a trail in search of this sleepy animal's den will be in order.



Gift Shop

January and February 20% off featured item.



Shrubs and Woody Vines Field Guide

\$6.00

plus tax

The Heritage Card does not apply.

This is a field guide to the identification of 147 shrubs and 41 vines occurring in Missouri that are either native to the state or have become naturalized by reproducing on their own.

February Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins **Monday, February 1st**, for the February programs.

Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Little Ones

Snowflakes

The cold and still of winter is upon us. Will it snow this year? You are invited into the warmth of the nature center to learn about animals and snow.

Babes in the Woods

February 11 • Thursday • 10–11 AM
Registration required (ages 0-2 years)

Little Acorns

February 9 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM
February 17 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM
Registration required (ages 3-6 years)

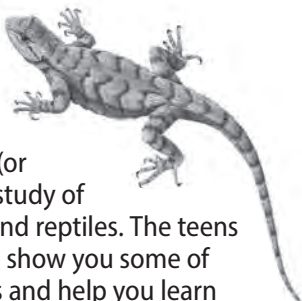
Little Acorns PLUS

February 5 • Friday • 10–11 AM
Registration required. For this program, you need one child in the 0-2 age range and one child in the 3-6 age range.

Kids for Conservation

Herps 101

February 9 • Tuesday • 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 7-12 years)
Many of the teen volunteers at Runge have been studying about and caring for the animals in our herpetology collection. Herpetology (or Herps) is the study of amphibians and reptiles. The teens are excited to show you some of these animals and help you learn more about them.



Teens for Conservation

Mystic Survival Skills

February 20 • Saturday • 9 AM–4 PM
Registration required (ages 13-17 years)
Knowing some basic and primitive skills for exploring the outdoors will give you more confidence. You will be challenged to read the landscape, build a fire, construct a shelter, and more. Everything will take place outdoors, so be prepared with warm clothes (layers are great!), boots, hat and gloves, and energy to walk at least 6 miles! Please bring your lunch and a water bottle.

Adults

River Bluffs Audubon Society: Missouri River Bird Observatory

February 11 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM
No registration required (ages 18 and older)
The River Bluffs Audubon Society will be hosting Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke of the Missouri River Bird Observatory. They will be speaking on new development projects related to bird conservation.

Book Discussion:

A Year on the Wing: "Four Seasons in a Life with Birds"

February 13 • Saturday • 9:30–10:30 AM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
Subtitled *Four Seasons in a Life with Birds*, this book highlights memorable times from the author's life as a bird watcher. BBC writer, Tim Dee, opens with his first memory of seeing a swallow and moves through each month, writing of migrating birds in March and tracking their patterns in August by banding others. Read this rewarding memoir and come for a lively discussion.

IT'S ALL THE RAGE!

Color Your Natural World

February 16 • Tuesday • 10:30–11:30 AM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
Spend some time with us as we reflect on nature through coloring. We'll explore a unique realm of frost flowers through coloring sheets and learn intriguing information about their formations. Coloring sheets and colorful pencils will be provided.

Midweek Trekkers

February 17 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Canaan Conservation Area** in Gasconade County and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Trail Length: 8 miles. Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.
Notes: Bring lunch.

Nature's Needlers

February 18 • Thursday • 10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
What are frost flowers? Find out about these elusive natural wonders and other early signs of spring as we complete the second block in our series, "The Seasons of Nature." Both beginners and experienced quilters will enjoy these sessions where we share tips and techniques with each other.

February Programs

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Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

The Hikers

February 20 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Mark Twain National Forest** in Boone County and hike the Smith Creek Loop of the Cedar Creek trail system. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Trail Length: 8 miles. Terrain: Significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks. Notes: Bring lunch.

Design With Nature In Mind: Quilling

February 20 • Saturday •

9:30 AM–Noon **OR** 1–3:30 PM

Registration required. (Women, ages 18 and older)

Learn a paper art -quilling- that has played a role in creative history for hundreds of years. The dogwood trees will be blooming soon and you will create a gorgeous dogwood bloom with paper and a few tools. The results will be breathtaking just as the blooming trees are each year. Information about our state tree, quilling instruction, and all materials needed to create a dogwood flower-embellished

note card will be provided.



All Ages

Puppet Show: Fungus Among Us Tree Dwellers

February 6 • Saturday • 1–1:30 PM

No registration required.

Many Missouri trees change by losing their leaves. When branches are empty it is easier to see what lives on and around them. Join Runge puppeteers for a close look at some things which call trees home. Maybe you can discover why Fungus is unhappy, and see if Bluebird or her friends can help her feel better.

What's Going On? Whose Scat is That?

February 13 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

Scat is another word for animal poo! Can you match the scat to the correct Missouri animal? Reveal the animal and the importance of its feces, excrement, poop (whatever you like to call it) through hands-on displays and activities. Create some scat to take home.

What's Going On?

All About Opossums!

February 20 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

Visit Runge and find out how these pouched mammals 'hang around' in Missouri. We will learn all about the shy, secretive, and nocturnal animal called Opossum through hands-on displays and activities.

Mixed Age Groups

Adventure Birding

February 13 • Saturday • 8 AM–3 PM

Registration required (ages 11 and older, children accompanied by an adult)

Many different species of ducks gather at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area during the month of February. Here is an opportunity to appreciate the great diversity among these beautiful birds. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch and binoculars (or borrow a pair of ours). Meet at the nature center. Transportation will be provided.

MDC Free Regional Events

Pollinator Seedling Project

MDC has been assisting the A.L. Gustin Golf Course with habitat improvements for the last couple of years, and they have done some excellent things on their own. A Quail Forever chapter has partnered with MDC to plant pollinator-friendly seeds at the golf course. You can help, too. Just meet at the A.L. Gustin Golf Course. All are welcome.

February 27 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

Location: A.L. Gustin Golf Course, Columbia, Missouri

Eagle Adventure

January 23, 2016

10 AM–2 PM



- Activities in the nature center lobby.
- Live eagle presentations at 10 AM, 11 AM, and 1 PM.
- Eagle viewing sites with high-powered scopes.

Save the date. Save the date. Save the date.

Grow Native! Plant Sale

March 26, 2016

10 AM–2 PM

- Activities in the nature center lobby.
- Vendors selling native plants.
- Exhibitors
- Details to follow in the March/April *Habitat Happenings*.

